RELATION

Of the Several

ENGAGEMENTS

AND

ACTIONS

OF HIS MAJESTIES

FLEET,

Under the Command of His Highneſs

Prince Rupert:

And of all Circumſtances concerning this Summers Expedition, *Anno* 1673.

Written by a Perſon in Command in the FLEET.

LONDON,
Printed for *J. B. Anno Domini.* 1673.

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An Exact Relation, &c.

SINCE my coming from Sea, I have Read the ſeveral Prints which have been publiſhed, and have alſo in daily converſation about Town obſerved the various Reports, and opinions of Men, every one diſcourſing as he ſtands affected, touching the Conduct and Behaviour of the ſeveral Squadrons of his Majeſties Fleet by Sea, during this Expedition: I perceive, that through the heat of Mens manifold Contradictions both in Court and City, the Story of the whole matter is told only as this and t'other Faction, or Affection would have it, by which means the Truth of things hath been hidden from His Majeſty; and is like to be from the Parliament and People of *England*, unleſs there ſtand forth ſome faithfull Relator. Therefore in all Loyalty to my King, and with a moſt affectionate regard to His Service, that He and His Parliament may truly underſtand where the fault lies, that they, after ſo great an expence of Blood and Treaſure, have reaped no greater fruit of ſo grand an undertaking; I conceive it my Duty, having had the opportunity to be an Eye Witneſs of every Motion and Action from firſt to laſt, and being no way obliged to favour or disfavour any Party concerned therein, to take Pen in hand, and give this clear account of the Buſineſs.

But before I come to Matter of Fact, it will be very convenient to acquaint you with some Particulars, the knowledge whereof is absolutely necessary to gain a right understanding of the Subject here related.

After a continuation of the War this last Summer with the *United Provinces* had been Resolved on by His Majesty, the next thing to be thought on was the appointing a Commander in Chief over the Fleet that should be sent forth; and concerning the Person, though all Men judged the Employment of Course might continue in the Hands of His Royal Highness the Duke of *York*, as Lord High Admirall of *England*, yet upon weighty Reasons of State, it was at length thought best for the good of this Kingdom, which is highly concerned in the safety of the Heir Apparent of the Crown, that at present His Royal Highness should be excused from running any further hazard of his Person in so dangerous a Service, he having already too often Exposed himself at Sea with high Courage and Resolution; and therefore His Highness Prince *Rupert* being nominated, as the next fittest Person to undertake that Command, His Majesty was pleased to resolve thereupon. And with this His Majesties purpose there immediately ensued a marvelous Concurrence of the Peoples Affections in City and Countrey, (all over the Kingdom) as well in Regard of the Royal Stock from whence His Highness sprang, as of His high Courage, Conduct, and long Experience in Affairs Military by Sea and Land, in this, and many other Nations; but yet more in respect of His tried Constancy to, and zeal for the *Reformed Protestant Profession of Religion*, and all the Interests thereof, for the sake whereof He and His Royal Family had long suffered the utmost extremity: The Sense whereof was that which chiefly drew the Hearts of the People to rejoyce in His Majesties Assignation of that most illustrious Prince; it being at such a time when the Parliament had taken Cognizanse of the Confidence and Insolence of the *Popish Party*;

many of which being crept into places of Trust and Command, gave an universal jealousie to the Kingdom, insomuch that His Majesty and the Parliament saw it necessary, for the breaking of their Strength and Confidence, to *put an Universal Test* upon all men that held any publick Office or Imploy by Sea or Land, in order to the removing of all such, as not submitting thereto, should be found *Popishly affected*. But yet notwithstanding this general Approbation and Applause of the Commander in Chief, there were a Generation of Men of another mind, who having found all their Arts and Endeavours of diverting His Majesty from this choice to be in vain, tack'd about to the *old trick of State*, of devising how underhand to take off the Chariot Wheels of the Princes Expedition, and to *clap on dead weights to retard him*; and so to handle the Matter among all sorts of Navy and Sea-Officers, that partly defect of due preparation, furniture, and supplies might disable Him, partly the ill timing of every Requisite, and finally the starting of Interests discontents and little Feids in the Fleet, might render the whole Enterprize of no more Effect than might just suit with their own Ends, and if possible, bring back the Prince with no more Victory than what might please them, and their Accomplices. In order hereunto, it is worth the while to consider how pat things were laid and fell out; for, our Preparations were so delay'd, that the *Dutch* got their Fleet out before us; and after we were in part ready, it was towards the end of *April* before the Prince could get his Commission, and Instruction to act by them; so that the *Dutch* having a Design to sink *Sinkers* between the *Middle Grounds*, to spoil the going of our Ships out and into the River, were very near the effecting of it; and had done it, but that His Highness suspecting it, with much industry got together as many of the *4th.* and *5th.* Rate Ships as he could, and some Fire-ships, with which he went quickly out, and defeated the Mischief they intended.

Matters

Matters being carried thus tardily by Friends at home, the ſame ſpirit ſeem'd alſo to poſſeſs our Confederates on the Coaſt of *France*: ſo that there was the more urgent neceſſity for us to have doubled our diligence, and to have made all imaginable haſt, For, we had certain intelligence, that the *French* Fleet, being then at *Breſt*, would not ſtir from their own Coaſt, till they ſhould hear that Ours were got into the *Channell*; ſo that even then an *ill Omen* aroſe in our minds, that they, in time of Action, might fall ſhort of ſuch alacrity as becomes ſo grand an undertaking: Eſpecially ſeeing we had at the ſame time Intelligence alſo, that the *Dutch* were labouring night and day to augment their Fleet, and would grow ſtronger and ſtronger every day. It being therefore neceſſary we ſhould joyn the *French* with all ſpeed, His Highneſs reſolving thereon, gave a high proof of His Courage in all Attempts, to paſs in deſpight of the Enemy then Riding nigh the *Gunfleet*; and of his Prudence, in ſo cleanly paſſing with the Fleet againſt the Wind, through a paſſage of ſo great hazard as the *Narrow*; For which hazard, to the endangering of His Majeſties whole Fleet, the Nation ows much to the Contrivers of thoſe delays, which gave the *Dutch* opportunity to reduce His Highneſs to the neceſſity of ſo paſſing, if he meant to unite with the *French*: Which brave Atchievement of his ſtruck ſuch a terror into the Enemy, that they durſt not abide by it, but bore away to their own Coaſt, to ride ſecure upon their Guard within the Sands at *Schonevelt*.

Which Gallant Action of His Highneſs deſerves ſo much the greater Eſtimation, ſeeing never any Prince went forth upon a War for the publick good, and the Honour of any Nation, under greater diſcouragements. For, ſome Perſons of high Truſt under His Majeſty had ſuch an Influence upon Affairs, that when they could no longer hinder the iſſuing forth of His Highneſs Commiſſion, they took care ſo to qualifie and Curtail it, that they left

him

him not power to make so much as one Officer in the whole Fleet, unless he could upon request obtain the favour so to do, so that Persons were put upon him for Sea-officers, from whom (for the most part) as he could have no particular assurance of affection to himself, so he was altogether unacquainted, whether they had most Faith and Firmness to His Majesty and the Kingdoms Service, or to the Intrigues and Service of their own *particular Patrons*.

Upon this account it was, That when the Prince had pitched upon Sir *Robert Holmes* for Imployment under him, as a Man of tried Valour, Fidelity, and Experience in Sea-fights, and one that his Highness could safely Confide in, being one that from his Youth had been Educated in his Highness's Family, it was so carried that he could by no means be admitted into any Command; and because of some animosity betwixt him and Sir *Edward Spragg*, that one point was made use of, as a pretence for the laying of him aside, notwithstanding the earnest Endeavours of the Prince to have got his old Servant along with him; one whom he might surely have relied on. And to that end, his Highness had propounded such ways and means to reconcile the matter, so as to make both of them useful to the publick Interest, and to satisfie the Reason of all the Interested Objectors, if they had had a mind to be satisfied.

But it seems by what fell out afterwards, that they had other work for Sir *Edward Spragg* to do besides fighting by Sea; and therefore the sacrificing of Sir *Robert Holmes* to Privacy, and the laying him aside from the opportunity of prying into the management of Sea-affairs, was a thing by them judged on divers accounts at this time absolutely necessary to their ends; for they had determined (as appears) to send Sir *Edward Spragg*, though Vice-Admiral of the Blew Squadron, on a special Journey by Land to negotiate in the Court of *France* (who surely is the first Vice-Admiral that ever went out of *England* to the *French*, to learn how to Fight by Sea) where he was Graciously Received, Highly

Caresse

Caressed, and thence Nobly Dismissed (some say with a *Present*, &c.) and all this so carried, that it was without the privity of *Prince Rupert*, who perhaps knows not to this minute, and no more then His Majesty does, what business he transacted there.

Nor was this all; for, to make sure work yet further, it was as cautiously provided, that his Highness might not be crowded with too many Concerns; for, when His Majesty in his Royal Wisdom thought fit, to give him a Commission to raise a *Maritime Regiment*, which was to have been paid out of the Establishment of *Ireland* by my Lord *Ranelagh*, they presently cast about how to frustrate this Order of the Kings, and thereupon offered so specious Reasons for it to his Royal Highness the Duke of *York*, that he was thereby induced to divert His Majesties purpose in that matter. So there was an end of this Commission.

And for the Chief Officers of his Highness's own Squadron, it must be remarked also, how he was accommodated (*viz.*) with Sir *John Harman* for his Vice-Admiral; which is not mentioned as if any fault could have been found with Sir *John Harman*, if he had then been the Sir *John Harman* he once was, (that is to say) the same Active man and Gallant Commander; but alas! he was Sick when he went aboard, and there tyed by the leg in his Cabin with the Gout, not able to stir either hand or foot. The appointed Rear-Admiral of the *Blew* was Capt. *Norborough*, who being then absent in the *Straights*, came not in till after the two first Engagements; which otherwise might have occasioned some competition among the Officers of the Fleet for that Place: For, though he were a good Seaman, yet there were many others in the Fleet that were of better merit, and longer Service; and the offence that must have been given to others, had he enjoyed it, was taken off by putting a Person of so great Quality as my Lord *Offory* into the Place. His Highnesses

own

own Reer-Admiral, was Sir *John Chicheley*, a Perſon of Honour and Quality, yet but of late a Seaman: which is not ſaid with intent of diminution, but only to give a clear account of things: For though a man may be of ever ſo much merit in other Qualifications, yet if he be put upon any Office or Employment, the leſs Experience he hath had therein, the leſs advantage he is like to bring to the Service.

By theſe things it appears how the main Wheels were clogged, and how ſick the Officers muſt needs be, and how faint the hearts of the whole Fleet, to obſerve how they were dealt with upon ſo important an occaſion, as a War for the Intereſt and Honour of the King and Kingdom; eſpecially when they ſaw they wanted both Workmen and Tools for the work, (that is to ſay) *Seamen* and *Supplies*. As for Seamen, it is to be noted, That though the Prince made it his Buſineſs to urge the getting of them betimes, Yet notwithſtanding all his ſollicitations, the Order for impreſſing of Seamen could not be got till it was very late, ſo that it was the Month of *March* before the Preſs began, though in the precedent year it began as early as *November*. But though it was this year ſo late as *March*, yet even then, matters were ſo carried, that it was impoſſible for his Highneſs to be ſufficiently Mann'd, ſeeing the Preſs-warrants were of little effect, being Checkt by Protections which had before been granted to Thouſands of Sea-men & Fiſher-men, and Water-men, that would have made good Sea-men. Nevertheleſs, his Highneſs abating no whit of his Affection and Zeal for His Majeſty and the Nations Service, reſolved to break through all diſcouragements; and as ill accommodated as he was, ſeeing the *Dutch* Fleet were got out, braving it upon our Coaſt, did with all Expedition haſten forth to Sea; being fed at leaſt, and ſet forward with ſome empty promiſes, That Sea-men and Neceſſaries ſhould be ſent after him; which proved at length to be but a miſerable Slurr put upon

so high a Commander: And all other things miserably suited, when after it drew on to the Point of Action; as will appear in the ensuing part of this Relation.

For, on the 27th. day of *May*, which was the day before our first Engagement with the Enemy; when his Highness perceived they would not admit of a Fight in fair Sea-room, but kept to their Advantage riding within the Sands at *Schonevelt*, He according to a resolve of a Councel of War (His Majesty present) like a Magnanimous Prince, resolved to Fight them in that very place, rather then permit them to wear away the Summer with longer delays; which they seemed mainly to intend: which is the highest proof of Courage, the like Action having never been attempted in that station before. So all the Sands having been sounded some days before, and it having been concluded at a Councel of War held on Board the *Royal Charles*, to Attack the Enemy Riding there at Anchor in a Line between the *Rand* and the *Stony Bank*, his Highness on the 28th. day about 9 a Clock in the Morning Commanded the firing of a Gun, upon which we loosed our fore-top-sail, and Weighed, and Hoisted the *Union Flagg* on the Mizon Peek, which is the Signal to Sail on towards the Enemy. This was accordingly obeyed by a Squadron that was ordered out of the several Divisions of the Fleet, consisting in all of 35. Frigats, and 13. Fireships, who went with an easie Sayl, the Wind at *S. S. W.* In the mean while the Body of the *French* (all, except some who straggling got into our Division, did indeed behave themselves very gallantly) made little or no Sail, but kept in the Rear of us, though they saw the *Hollander* stretch it to the Northward. Then the Prince put forth the *Red Flagg* on the Fore-topmast head; so all our Commanded Ships went a head, and by 12. a Clock at Noon Engaged the Enemies Van, Commanded by *Tromp*: The Prince himself also Engaged two hours before the *French*; in which time we so pressed *Tromp*, that he was forced to give way, and retire

as far as the Sands would give him leave. Then the Count *d'Estrees* and the *French* Squadron became at length Engaged with *de Ruyter*: which prospered not so well; for, they bore him not down, but rather left him. And *de Ruyter*, not to be behind with them in kindness, quitted them, and came to his Highness; whose Squadron being too near the Shore, was for that Reason necessitated to stand the other way, to such degree, that had it not been for fear of the Shoales, we had driven them into their Harbours, and given His Majesty at that time a better account of them, notwithstanding the ill accommodations that we were under; more particularly in the *Royal Charles*, his Highness's own Ship, which proved so Cranck-sided, and fetch'd so much Water in at the Ports, that her lower Tire of Guns could not be made useful, though it was a very easie Gale that we had during this Engagement; the Issue whereof was, That the Enemy had many Men slain, many Ships disabled, and some destroyed; Yea, and *de Ruyter* and *Tromp* must have been burnt by our Fireships, had they done their Duty. We saw two Ships sunk. The *French* say they saw one burnt, two disabled, and three run ashoar. The Loss on our side was very inconsiderable, two of our Ships being only disabled, *viz.* The *Cambridge* and *Resolution*: very few Common Men were lost, and only these Officers, Capt. *Fowlis*, Capt. *Worden*, and Capt. *Finch*. Colonel *Hamilton* had his Legg shot, of which returning home, he dyed at *London*. All the rest that Engaged came off very bravely.

Now from the time of this Action to the 4*th*. of *June* little was done, save the repairing of defects, and amending our Tackle, towards which we were all ill furnished as we were with all other Necessaries, not having so much as Needles and Thread sufficient for the work, to the great Praise of our Providers be it spoken. And though his Highness had made it his Business Night and Day to get the promised Supplies of Sea-men aboard, and some had

undertaken to do it, yet it came to no Effect. On the 3d. of *June*, which was the day before our *Second Engagement*, his Highness suspecting the Enemy, that Riding on their own Coast they might be refitted and furnished with all things, the which benefit they knew (as the Wind stood) we could not have, and so would be Enccuraged to come out again upon us, bestirred himself exceedingly to get into a posture fit to receive them: and not presuming to trust himself the second time in the *Royal Charles*, he this day quitted her, and having opportunity of Weather, went aboard the *Royal Soveraign*, where imagining the Enemy might Attack us that Night, he went not to Bed, but waited till Morning, *June* the 4th. when about 9 a Clock our Scouts gave the Sign, That the Enemy was a Weighing with fresh Sea-men and Provisions, to take their advantage against us, as they very fairly had it; for then a strange thing was done by Sir *Edward Spragg*, who, though he was told of the Enemy, and saw them himself, yet would needs lose so much time as to come six Miles in his Boat, and bring his Reer Admiral my Lord of *Ossory* along with him aboard the *Soveraign*, under a pretence of Business; the Consequence whereof was, That the Enemy coming on with the advantage of a stiff Gale of Wind at *N. E.* The Blew Squadron Commanded by Sir *Edward Spragg*, by reason of his absence, stood not away close by the Wind to the Northward, as he had been Ordered to do, though his Highness with all possible speed hastened him back; who being got on Board, at length, after loss of time, made Sayl to the Northward. This passage of Sir *Edward Spragg* being observed by Count *d' Estrees*, he thereupon took occasion to lay by, and delay time; which point of behaviour we knew not what to think of, it being the season of Action, for that the *Dutch* were bearing down to us. And now more then ever we became sensible of the want of Sea men, not having enough to Weigh up our Anchors; so that to prevent a greater mischief, his

Highness

Highneſs was conſtrained to order the cutting off his own Cable, that we might be up with the Enemy. By this time *Tromp* with the Van became Engaged with *Spragg*, and *de Ruyter* with his *Highneſs*, who made a ſhew as if he would come very near us; but before he came within Muſquet ſhot, he ſprung his Looſe, and cloſed his Wind as much as he could, going off on a ſudden for good and all; and then cloſing with *Tromp*, their whole Fleet being bravely repulſed, they cautiouſly ſtood Pelting at us at a great diſtance, that they might be the nearer to their Reſerve of ſecurity within the Sands at *Schonevelt* upon occaſion. It was about 5 a Clock in the Afternoon that the Engagement began; and when they were reduced to Pelting, it ſo continued till 11 or 12 a Clock at Night, we all the while keeping our Ground, notwithſtanding their Fireſhips; after which they Tack'd, ſtanding towards the Eaſt Southerly. Then about two in the Morning we Tack'd alſo, and ſtood after them; but ſeeing no likelyhood of reaching them before they could get within the Sands, we thought not meet to follow them any further, and ſo Tack't again and ſtood for our own Coaſt. What Loſs they ſuſtained, we, by reaſon of their going off in ſuch a Confuſion, cannot tell. On our ſide we loſt very few of our Men, and of our Commanders only Capt. *Waite* of the *Warſpight*, and Capt. *Sadlington* of the *Crown* were killed; of the Foot Officers, Capt. *Henſhaw*, and Lieutenant *Fitz Gerald*; and Lieutenant *Tuſton* was Wounded; But for our Ships, as in the *firſt Engagement*, after we had ſufficiently beaten the Enemy, we came off without the loſs of one man of War, or ſo much as one Ship touching the Ground, though that Fight was maintained in a dangerous place. So in this *Second Engagement*, wherein the Enemy came on with the advantage of the Wind, Freſh Men, and Proviſions, *&c.* againſt us, we loſt never a Ship, and but few Men. For which His Majeſty and the Nation owes much, next under God, to his Highneſs, who at a

time

time when non-supplies, and want of Men, and of all neceſſaries, would have ſtartled any man, gave ſuch ſignal Evidence of his Courage, Diligence and Prudence in the Conduct of the Fleet, as is Admirable to conſider in ſo great Diſcouragement and Diſorder as we were under, by reaſon of the prepoſterous behaviour and delays of ſome others.

The next day, being *June* the 5*th*. and no Enemy in ſight, we had leiſure to conſider our Condition; and then from the whole Fleet came miſerable complaints to his Highneſs of want of Sea-men, and all manner of things in every Ship; though all things had been often written for, and promiſed they ſhould be ſent after us; the Commanders exclaiming they ſhould be thus expoſed, ſo as not to have convenient Supplies, but be in want of Powder, Shot, Water, Beer, and ſmall ſtores, Fiſhes, and what not; whereupon it being impoſſible to avoid a going home, to revictual and refit our ſelves preſently, we ſet Sayl for the *Gun fleet*, and about 9 a Clock at Night came to an Anchor there, and thence the following day made towards the *Buoy of the Nore*, where on the eighth of *June* we Rode at Anchor, and on the 14*th*. his Highneſs returned to *London* to give His Majeſty an Account how things ſtood, and to Preſs on a ſpeedy ſupplying of all Neceſſaries for the Refitting of the Fleet out to Sea again.

On the 21*ſt*. his Highneſs returned to the Fleet again, where, with indefatigable Induſtry, he ſet all things in forwardneſs, and made ſo quick diſpatch, that had not a delay intervened, about a deſign of ſending Soldiers to be Landed by us in *Holland*, we had been much ſooner out at Sea: but by the 16*th*. of *July* his Highneſs Weighed, and His Majeſty alſo in his Yacht, having a ſtrong Gale at *S.W.* and came to the *Middle-ground*, where humbly taking his leave of His Majeſty, he quickly got the Fleet through the *Narrow*, and on the 19*th*. of *July* ſtood with an eaſie

Sayl

Sayl for the Coast of *Zealand*. The next day we discovered the Enemies Fleet at Anchor in the *Schonevelt*, bearing *S. E.* of us: On the 22*d*. in the Morning we stood to Sea, the Enemy no sooner perceived it, but they stood after us, and the Wind Veering suddenly to the *S. W.* made them get the Wind of us, so that none of our Ships could weather them. And to wave an Engaging, for which when they saw us putting our selves in Order, they stood for their own Coast again, and we pursued our Resolution of standing along their Coast, which we did the 24*th*. looking into the *Vly* to Anchor fair off of the *Texel*. So that on the 9*th*. of *August* we had the opportunity of taking one of the *Dutch East India Ships*, called the *Papenburgh*, making homewards. On the 10*th*. we had sight again of the *Holland Fleet* standing to the Northward, and bore down to them. Then his Highness Commanded the *French* a particular course, the Enemy being come three Leagues to Leeward of us; but here the *French* were pleased to give us an early Tast of their Temper: For, their Fleet lay by twice that Night, and made so little Sayl, that the Enemy had opportunity to stretch out a head of us. The first time that the French now faltered thus was about 11 a Clock at Night; which his Highness wondering at, as contrary to Order, our whole Fleet was forced to lye by whilest a Messenger was sent on Board the Count *d Estrees* to know the Reason, and to Order him to make Sayl again. Nevertheless, after a little more Sayl made, he about one a Clock in the Morning laid his Sayles to the Mast again; which gave a second stop to our Fleet, while his Highness sent a Message by a second Messenger to the same purpose. And by this means the *Dutch*, making all the Sayl they could, and the Wind Veering to the *E.* and *E.* by *S.* they got the advantage of the Wind of us, being close by the Shore under *Camperdown*. About day-break we saw them about a League and half to Windward of us, the Wind being then at *E. S. E.* fair Weather: at which

time both our Fleet and theirs were ſtanding to the North-ward. Upon this his highneſs ſtretch't it away till ſix in the Morning, being Monday the 11th. of *Auguſt*. The *Dutch* being then to Windward, began to bear down upon him: Whereupon his Highneſs thought fit to Tack, not having Room to the Eaſtward to Fight; by which Tacking the Fleet was brought into a very good Line and Order. The Wind now at *S. E.* his Highneſs prepared all things for a full and deciding Battel, putting abroad the Signal for our Fleet to Tack to the Southward; which they did. He had put the *French* in the Van, himſelf in the Middle, and Sir *Edward Spragg* in the Reer. Our Fleet being extended longer then the Enemies, and the Wind coming to the South, the *French* lay fair to get the Wind of them. However, the Enemy bore down and Engaged us; *de Ruyter* undertook his Highneſs; *Tromp* provoked Sir *Edward Spragg* and his Blew Squadron, who laid his fore-top Sayl to the Maſt to ſtay for him, contrary to his Highneſs's Expreſs Orders, and his own Duty; while *de Ruyter* and *Bankaert* Vice Admiral of *Zealand*, both of them with all their Men of War and Fire-ſhips, came down upon his Highneſs his Red Squadron, except eight Men of War of the *Zealand Squadron*, whom *Bankaert* had ſent with three Fireſhips to fall upon the Reer of the *French* Squadron; where Monſieur *de Martel*, the *French* Vice Admiral, being Cannon ſhot nearer to the Commanded party of *Zealand*, then any other Ship of his Diviſion, received Five of them with ſuch bravery of *Reſolution*, that he fought them two hours, and was ſo fortunate as to diſable one of them, which the reſt had enough to do to carry off; but by the way ſhe appeared to be on Fire, cauſed by ſome Fire-balls that had been ſhot into her. This Gentleman *de Martel* ſeems by many Circumſtances a moſt Gallant Man, zealous of his own Honour, and the Honour of his Nation, and Faithful to the utmoſt; ſo that when he had obſerved the Carriage of his own Admiral Count *d' Eſtrees* upon this occaſi-

occasion, he after the Fight sent the Prince an Account thereof in a particular Relation, it being as he said, the same that he had sent to his Master the King of *France*; wherein he taxed the Count, that he gave those *Zealanders* leave to pass by the whole Squadron of the *French* with their disabled Ship, to secure her and themselves in making back to the rest of their *Zealand* party: of which when *de Martel* challenged the Captains of his Division for failing to relieve him, they said they had Orders from Monsieur *d' Estrees* to regard none of his Motions, so that it seems the Count chose rather to venture a point of Honour, then depart from his own private reserve of mind. This Action being over, *de Martel* retired, and united again with the main Body of the *French* Squadron; where he afterwards durst not be so forward any more, but stood as still as the rest of his Fellows: Of which more by and by.

By this behaviour of *d' Estrees* there is Ground enough to Collect, That *de Ruyter* and the *Zealand Vice-Admiral* were before-hand pretty Confident, that the *French* would not hurt them: which made the *Zealander* send only that small party of Men of War, to fall upon *de Martel* for his forwardness; else there had been no reason he should have presumed so far to neglect the *French*, as to unite himself and all the rest of his *Zealanders* with the Squadron of *de Ruyter*, to bring their whole Force upon his Highness.

It was about 8. a Clock e're the Fight began, and before 9. there fell a Fogg, with a small Rain, which continued untill nigh Noon; then it cleared up, and the Wind came to the South, which put the *French*, being a head, to Windward of the *Dutch*: And then the Battel being renewed, the whole burthen and brunt of *de Ruyter* and *Bankaert*, (those Men of War also that fought *de Martel* being *United*) fell again upon his Highness and Sir *John Harmans* Division, while the *French*, instead of Tacking and

Engaging the Enemy (as was expected from them) ſtood away to the *S. E.* the Wind then at *S. S. W.* and ſtood full two Leagues away before they Tack'd again, adding this Compliment to the former, when they gave the eight *Zealand* Men of War free paſſage back from *de Martel* to their Fellows. Now as this gave great Encouragement to the Enemy, ſo it would have appall'd any Man leſs Couragious then the Prince, to ſee himſelf thus deſerted. But beſides this, it was ſtrange that Sir *Edward Spragg*, contrary to Order, and to the ſolemn aſſurance that he gave his Highneſs in Perſon the day before, not to be from his ſide, ſhould make a ſeparate Fighting with *Tromp* ſo far Leeward of all the reſt. Nor was his Highneſſes Reer-Admiral Sir *John Chichely* with his Diviſion near, becauſe the Enemy had ſoon interpoſed between him and the Prince: ſo that betwixt twelve and one of the Clock, his Highneſs was wholly ſurrounded by the *Dutch*, being preſſed by *de Ruyter* and his Squadron on his Lee-quarter, an Admiral with two Flags more on his Weather-quarter, and the *Zealand* Squadron on his broad-ſide to Windward. Thus they imployed all their Forces, having deſigned to take no more notice of the *French* than the *French* did of them, or of his Highneſs; although they had continually in their Eye the *Blew Flagg ſet upon the Mizon Peek*, which was the Signal to fall on, Expreſly ſet down in the General Inſtructions for Fighting, which had been ſent before by his Highneſs to Count *d' Eſtrees*; which hath been atteſted alſo by *Martel* in his Relation, and that the Prince did give the Signal before mentioned, with all other ſigns that might incite *d' Eſtrees* to bear down to his Aſſiſtance, having a fair Wind for the purpoſe; but that inſtead of this, he kept the Wind, contenting himſelf to give his Ships more then common and half diſtance from the Enemy. And 'tis related further by *de Martel*, That himſelf ſaw very well how ſhameful this was; but being under Command now, not to Attempt any thing without Order from the

the Count; and beſides, not daring to truſt the Captains of his own party to follow him, who in the former Action this day had deſerted him, he ſhrugged up his Shoulders, and could do no more but forbid any ſhooting from his Ship: And he concludes his Relation with theſe words, *That if the Count would have fallen in with the fair wind upon* de Ruyter *and* Bankaert, *at their firſt Engaging, who far exceeded the Prince in number of force, they muſt needs have been incloſed between his* Highneſs *and* d' Eſtrees, *and ſo there would have been an entire Defeat of the Enemy.*

Nevertheleſs, his Highneſs proſecuted the Fight on with an undanted mind, and ſo Anſwered them at all points, that he gave them enough of it, and ſo forced them to give way, that he ſoon got an opportunity to joyn with Sir *John Chicbely*: which being done, about two of the Clock his Highneſs diſcovered Sir *Edward Spragg* with his *Blew Squadron* at a great diſtance, about 3. Leagues to Lee-ward bearing *N. N. E*, and not knowing what condition that Squadron was in, and not hearing the Guns well plyed, he made all the Sayl he could towards them, to unite and relieve them, if he ſhould find occaſion required it.

No ſooner had *de Ruyter* perceived the deſign of the Prince, but he left Firing, and boar away alſo with his whole Fleet, to the relief of *Tromp*; ſo that both Fleets ran down ſide by ſide within Range of Cannon-ſhot; but without firing on either ſide; and as we were Sayling down we ſaw many of *Spragg's* Blew Squadron, which we judged had received ſome damage to Windward of his Body; and ſome of the *Red* likewiſe, to whom his Highneſs fired a Gun, as a call to them to bear down to him: notwithſtanding which they did not; but about 4. a Clock we were got nigh the *Blew Squadron*, where we found Sir *Edward Spragg's* Ship the *Royal Prince* wholly diſabled, her Main maſt, Mizon-maſt, and foretop-maſt ſhot away, and divers more Ships of his Squadron diſabled, the Vice-

Admiral of the Blew laying to Windward of her, mending his Sayls and Rigging; the Earl of *Ossory*, Reer-Admiral of the Blew, lay a stern of the *Royal Prince*, between her and the Enemy; bending of his new Sayles, and mending his Rigging, and two Frigats by him: whereupon, his *Highness* sent two Frigats to take the *Royal Prince* in a Tow.

Now *Tromps* Squadron lay to the Eastward of them, some of them Disabled also of their Top-masts and Yards, part of his Squadron with his Vice-Admiral and Reer-Admiral standing to the Eastward close by a Wind with all the Sayl they could to gain it, and so they Tack't again upon the Blew; at which time we came near them, being about 4. a Clock: Then *de Ruyter* fired a Gun, upon which *Tromp* Tackt, with design to make themselves Masters of our Lame Ships, *viz.* The *Royal Prince* and others; the *Royal Prince* being bravely defended by Sir *John Kempthorn*, and the Earl of *Ossory*, and Assisted by some of the same Squadron. This made us lay by for Sir *John Kempthorn*, to get our Fleet in order to Attack the Enemy again, and then his Highness put out the *Blew Flagg upon the Mizon-Peek*, which is the usual Signal to bring all the Ships into the Generalls Wake or Grain, and sent Ketches, Sloops and Boats, to Ships that were to windward, to Command them in: whereupon we bore up, and steered in between *de Ruyter* and our Lame Ships, and fired a Gun to some of our own Ships to Windward to bear down; but none came near to Assist his Highness but Sir *John Kempthorn* and my Lord of *Ossory*; so we have reason to believe, that except his Highness had come in so happily to the relief; the *Blew Squadron* had been totally lost, since they were so Disabled, that no more of them but those two Flaggs only were in a condition to give him any Assistance in a further encountring with the Enemy.

About 5. a Clock *de Ruyter*, with all his Flaggs and Fleet came side by side close up with the Prince: so there began a very

a very ſharp Engagement; his Highneſs had none beſides the Vice-Admiral and Reer-Admiral of the Blew to ſecond him, but Sir *John Harman*, Capt, *Davis* in the *Triumph*, Capt, *Stout* in the *Warſpight*; and his Highneſſes own Diviſion, Sir *John Holmes* in the *Rupert*, Capt. *Legg* in the *Royal Katherine*, Sir *John Berry* in the *Reſolution*, Sir *John Earnley* in the *Henry*, Sir *Roger Strickland* in the *Mary*, and Capt. *Carter* in the *Crown*, a *4th.* Rate Ship; in all, not above 13, or 14. Ships: The Fight was very ſharp and cloſe; about 7. a Clock his Highneſs forced the Enemy into a very great diſorder, and then ſent two Fire-ſhips amongſt them; which increaſed it; and if the *French*, who now again lay at a convenient diſtance to Windward, would have obeyed the Prince his Signal, and bore down upon the Enemy according to their Duty, we muſt needs have Routed them, and Torn them to Pieces. It was the plaineſt and greateſt opportunity that ever was loſt at Sea. The Fight continued till the day was nigh ſpent, and the Sun juſt ſetting; at which time his Highneſs ſeeing my Lord of *Oſſory* and Sir *John Kempthorn* both in ſome meaſure Diſabled, and none elſe likely to be Aſſiſting to make a through end of the Buſineſs, it was high time to carry off our diſabled Ships; to which purpoſe he edged off towards them with an eaſie Sayl, and the *Dutch* laid their heads to the Eaſtward: ſo the Battel ended.

When the Night had parted us and the Enemy, and no more was to be done, came a Meſſenger from Count *d' Eſtrees* the *French* Admiral, to demand Orders, and to know what was meant by the *Blew Flagg upon the Mizon-Peek*, though all the Engliſh knew, and ſo did his own Vice-Admiral acknowledge, and the Inſtructions for Fighting which the Prince had ſent him, and others of the *French* Captains can tell, and all the World, that he had as much Reaſon to know it, and more Eminently, than any of themſelves; however, it was cunningly done of Count *d' Eſtrees*, by a ſpecial Meſſage to compleat the whole

whole affair thus with a perfect Mockery, after the *Hollanders* had ſtood off to their own Coaſt.

As to the Damage on either ſide, great Execution was done upon the Tackle and Rigging by both Parties, and divers Ships diſabled; *Tromp* ſhifted his Ship on that Account once, and Sir *Edward Spragg* twice; ſo that when the *Royal Prince* was diſabled, he went and ſet up his Flag in the *St. George*; which becoming diſabled alſo, he was fain to take Boat to go on Board the *Royal Charles*, and had not Rowed [illegible] ten Boats length, but a Bullet came and broke his Boat: They made back again as faſt as they could, but before they could get within throw of the Ropes, the Boat ſunk, and Sir *Edward Spragg* was drowned, though when he was taken up his Head and Shoulders were found above Water, his Arms having taken ſo dead a hold of ſome part of the Boat, that they could not diſ-engage him from it. Neither we nor the *French* loſt one Ship of War; only the *Henrietta* Yatch was ſunk by the ſide of my Lord of *Oſſory*. Of the ſlain we are to reckon Captain *Leneve*, Captain *Merryweather* of the Duke of *Buckinghams* Regiment being Foot-Officers, and Mr. *May* a Volunteer. Of Sea-Commanders Sir *William Reeves* (a perſon of great bravery, one that from his youth had been Educated by his Highneſs, and who had conſtantly attended him with high Courage, and Fidelity in all Fortunes by Sea and Land; ſo that he arrived to the skill, and made good the Character of a Gallant Commander) and Captain *Heyward* (a Gallant old Sea-man) both dyed of their wounds, which were all of note that we hear of. In his Highneſs's own Ship were ſixty men ſlain and dangerouſly wounded.

What the Enemy loſt was hard to determine; but two of their great Ships of 70. and 60. Guns were loſt, in our ſight, the one ſunk by Sir *John Kempthorne*. Two of the *Dutch* Flag-Officers with ſeveral Captains were ſlain; and of Common Sea-men a very conſiderable number.

Now

Now, having run over all the particulars of this Summers Action, let us pauſe a little, and conſider the Heroick behaviour of this Excellent Prince; how Glorioufly he acquitted himſelf in all the parts of a great General, and whether it were poſſible for any Man, under ſuch Circumſtances, to do more then he hath done? In the midſt of ſo many Intrigues of Oppoſition here at home, ſo many delays of his Commiſſion, ſo few Powers contained in it, ſuch ſcantly number of Sea-men, ſo little aſſurance of divers Chief Commanders, ſuch failure of Proviſions, ſuch want of Ammunition and all other Neceſſaries, ſuch deceit of Navy-Officers, ſuch non-obſervance of Orders at Sea amongſt his own *Engliſh*, and ſo manifeſt defections of the *French*, not to be Staggered in his Reſolutions, nor to be put out of all Patience and Prudence in Action, nor to abate of his Affection and Zeal for the Honour and Service of His Majeſty, the ſafeguard and Intereſt of Religion and the Kingdom, in a ſeaſon when ſo many Popiſh Projectors plaid a Game under board, and above too, will be an everlaſting Argument of his Highneſſes Valour and Renown; and muſt needs be a ſtrong Obligation upon the King, the Parliament, and People of *England*; who are now left to judge, whether it was not a wonderful good Providence of God, and one of the moſt memorable pieces of Service ever done at Sea, to ſurmount all thoſe difficulties, and even Envy it ſelf; and after all, to bring home the Fleet *Royal* of *England*, without the loſs of one Man of War, to her own ſhore in Safety, in deſpight of all Enemies that deſigned otherwiſe by Sea and Land.

Tantum potuit unius viri virtus, & fortuna.

FINIS.